

To: Adam Skowera

From: Horace Brown

RE: REGIONAL EFFICIENCY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

The invitation to participate in this meeting is appreciated. I plan to be present.

In response to the request for a "very short written list of recommendations", I offer the following:

1. The regional performance incentive program should be continued and funding increased. OPM or a separate committee should evaluate the results of funded projects. Successful projects should be publicized and vigorously promoted so others will copy.
2. Proposed projects of regional significance should be required to be submitted to the appropriate regional planning organization for approval or disapproval or at least substantial review with recommendations.
3. OPM and RPOs should be provided with adequate funding in order to develop appropriate databases and to spend necessary time to properly prepare and coordinate consistent Plans of Conservation and Development which the RPO can then use in coordinating with municipal plans of C&D.
4. The state should provide RPOs with funding to facilitate technical assistance to member municipalities for smart growth related planning and regulation.

Overall, I feel the major problem at the regional level is not with planning but with lack of implementation. Thus emphasis should be on the latter. Possibly, all state grants to municipalities should be examined to determine which could better be handled regionally and then determine how to change the funding formula.